

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2656

Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula

February 24, 2006

An act to add Section 52055.80 to the Education Code, relating to public school accountability, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2656, as amended, Arambula. Underperforming school districts: academic crisis and management assistance team.

Existing federal law establishes local educational agency and school accountability requirements under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and creates additional requirements for local educational agencies and schools that fail to make adequate yearly progress for 2 or more years, as specified, and that are identified for program improvement or ~~correction~~ *corrective* action. Existing state law establishes accountability requirements in addition to those under federal law and ranks schools each year on the Academic Performance Index (API). Existing law establishes programs designed to assist underperforming schools in improving pupil achievement. Existing state law establishes actions that may be taken by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, and State Department of Education to assist local educational agencies in danger of being identified as program improvement local educational agencies, local educational agencies already identified as program improvement local educational agencies, and local educational agencies identified for

corrective action, as well as funding to assist local educational agencies that are not identified for program improvement or corrective action but that govern schools that are so identified.

This bill would establish an Academic Crisis and Management Assistance Team to provide, at the request of the Superintendent of Public Instruction or county superintendent of schools, academic and management assistance to any school district under his or her jurisdiction that is identified as being in program improvement or subject to corrective action under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The bill would identify the roles and responsibilities of the academic experts and the areas in which their assessments will focus upon in assisting the school district.

This bill would appropriate an unspecified sum from the General Fund for the 2007–08 fiscal year for apportionment to county offices of education in order to meet the costs incurred by school districts that utilize the Academic Crisis and Management Assistance Team.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 52055.80 is added to the Education
2 Code, to read:
3 52055.80. (a) The governing board provided for in
4 subdivision (b) shall establish a unit to be known as the
5 Academic Crisis and Management Assistance Team. The team
6 shall consist of persons having *extensive teaching experience and*
7 *extensive practical experience in school district management and*
8 *operations, the design and operation of instructional programs,*
9 *the effective use of data to improve pupil performance, the roles*
10 *and responsibilities of school district and school management*
11 *personnel, budgeting, personnel administration, organization, and*
12 *staffing. The Superintendent may appoint one employee of the*
13 *department to serve on the unit. The unit shall be operated under*
14 *the immediate direction of an appropriate county office of*
15 *education selected jointly, in response to an application process,*
16 *by the Superintendent and the Secretary for Education.*
17 (b) The unit established under subdivision (a) shall be selected
18 and governed by a 25-member governing board consisting of *one*
19 *representative chosen by a statewide professional organization of*

1 *teachers*, one representative chosen by the California County
2 Superintendents Educational Services Association from each of
3 the 11 county service regions designated by the association, 11
4 superintendents of school districts chosen by the Association of
5 California School Administrators from each of the 11 county
6 service regions, ~~two representatives~~ *one representative* from the
7 department chosen by the Superintendent, and one representative
8 chosen by the Secretary for Education. The governing board of
9 the County Office Academic Crisis and Management Assistance
10 Team shall select a county superintendent of schools to chair the
11 unit.

12 (c) The Superintendent or county superintendent of schools
13 may request the unit to review the academic and administrative
14 condition of, and provide management assistance to, any school
15 district under his or her jurisdiction that is identified as being in
16 program improvement or subject to corrective action pursuant to
17 the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec.
18 6301 et seq.).

19 (d) In addition to the functions described in subdivision (c),
20 the unit shall do all of the following:

21 (1) Provide academic management assistance, at the request of
22 any school district identified as being in need of improvement or
23 subject to corrective action pursuant to the federal No Child Left
24 Behind Act of 2001. Each school district receiving that assistance
25 shall be required to pay the onsite personnel costs and travel
26 costs incurred by the unit for that purpose, pursuant to rates
27 determined by the governing board established under subdivision
28 (b). The governing board annually shall distribute rate
29 information to each school district.

30 (2) Facilitate training for members of the governing board of
31 the school district, district and county superintendents, chief
32 financial officers within the district, and district and schoolsite
33 personnel whose primary responsibility is to address academic
34 achievement issues and the challenge of closing the achievement
35 gap for subgroups. The unit shall use state professional
36 associations, private organizations, and public agencies and the
37 statewide system of school support regional consortia to provide
38 guidance, support, and the delivery of any training services in the
39 following areas:

1 (A) Reviewing and analyzing all facets of the operation of a
2 school district or school, including, but not limited to, the
3 following:

4 (i) The design and operation of the instructional program
5 offered.

6 (ii) The recruitment, hiring, and retention of district
7 administrators, principals, teachers, and other staff, including
8 vacancy issues. The system may request the assistance of the
9 Academic Crisis and Management Assistance Team to review
10 school district or school recruitment, hiring, and retention
11 practices.

12 (iii) The roles and responsibilities of district and school
13 management personnel.

14 (B) Assisting the school district and schools in developing and
15 implementing recommendations for improving pupil
16 performance and district and school operations.

17 (C) Assisting the school districts in efforts to eliminate
18 misassignments of certificated personnel.

19 (e) (1) The governing board of the Academic Crisis *and*
20 Management ~~and~~ Assistance Team shall reserve not less than 60
21 percent, nor more than 85 percent, of its revenues each year for
22 expenditure for the costs of contracts and professional services as
23 management assistance to school districts in which the board
24 determines that an academic emergency exists.

25 (2) The unit shall request and review applications to establish
26 a panel of available education management and instructional
27 experts throughout the state who possess extensive practical
28 experience in school district management and operations, the
29 design and operation of instructional programs, research-based
30 reform strategies, the effective use of data to improve pupil
31 performance, the roles and responsibilities of school district and
32 school management personnel, budgeting, personnel
33 administration, organization, staffing, and working in and with
34 schools and school districts with low-achieving pupils.

35 (3) Panel experts shall follow the standards and guidelines of
36 and remain under the general supervision of the governing board
37 established under subdivision (b).

38 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent possible,
39 the experts on the panel be distributed geographically throughout
40 the various regions of the state in order to provide timely,

1 cost-effective expertise to school districts and county offices of
2 education.

3 SEC. 2. The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby
4 appropriated from the General Fund to the Superintendent of
5 Public Instruction for the 2007–08 fiscal year for apportionment
6 to county offices of education to meet the costs of participation
7 under Section 52055.80 of the Education Code.

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